

**MINUTES OF THE
VETERANS REINTEGRATION TASK FORCE**

Wednesday, September 5, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Peter C. Knudson, Senate Chair
Rep. Paul Ray, House Chair
Sen. Karen Mayne
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove
Rep. Val L. Peterson
Major Annette Barnes
LTC Brent Baxter
Mr. Blair K. Carruth
Mr. Bart Davis
Mr. Brent Kelsey
Mr. Jon Pierpont
Mr. David Rudd
Mr. Terry D. Schow
Mr. Mark B. Steinagel

Members Absent:

Dr. W. David Patton
Mr. David Rudd
Mr. Lincoln Shurtz

Staff Present:

Mr. Richard C. North, Policy Analyst
Ms. Esther Chelsea-McCarty, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Ray called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m. and excused Mr. Schwermer.

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2012 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Peterson was absent for the vote.

Chair Ray welcomed Dr. Marc Babitz, Director, Division of Family Health and Preparation, as a task force member appointed by Dr. W. David Patton, Executive Director, Utah Department of Health, to represent the department.

Mr. Jared Haines, Vice President, Instructional and Student Services, Utah College of Applied Technology, and Ms. Patricia Henriques, Director, Outreach National Center for Veterans Studies, University of Utah, were in attendance and seated at the table.

2. Task Force Agency Member Reports - Department of Workforce Services

Mr. Pierpont introduced Brent Newren, Service Area Director, Department of Workforce Services (DWS).

Mr. Newren distributed and presented "Utah Department of Workforce Services." Mr. Newren provided an overview of services provided by the department through the Eligibility Services, Unemployment Insurance, and Workforce Development Divisions.

Task force discussion followed about the potential for a statute requiring government entities and other agencies, which contract with the state, to list on the Department of Workforce Services website available employment opportunities. Chair Ray asked staff to open a bill file to accomplish this.

The task force also discussed available state unemployment data on veterans, how the department ensures those receiving unemployment are actively seeking work, and ways in which to educate veterans about the employment services available to them.

Dr. Babitz asked if non-military service members are considered veterans. Mr. Schow said that if a public service member was deployed and served at least 180 days beyond training, or if a service member was injured, even in basic training, they are a veteran and qualify for the benefits discussed by the task force.

3. Counseling / Suicide Prevention

Ms. Annika Hunt, Director of Psychological Health, 151st Air Refueling Wing, Air National Guard, distributed and presented "Air National Guard Psychological Health Program." Ms. Hunt discussed the effectiveness of the program and the need to develop a climate that encourages airmen to seek help when needed. She also responded to task force members' questions and participated in the discussion that followed.

Dr. Steve Allen, Coordinator, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Program, U.S. Veterans Administration, provided an overview of mental health services available through the Salt Lake Veterans Administration and commented on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in response to questions from the task force.

Ms. Lisa Stoddard MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, U.S. Veterans Administration, distributed and presented "Suicide Prevention, VA Salt Lake City Health Care System" and responded to questions from the task force.

4. Needs and Services Subcommittee Initial Report

Due to lack of time, this item was not discussed.

5. Other Business

The next meeting was scheduled for September 26, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.

6. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Mayne was absent for the vote.

Chair Ray adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m.